

Prickly Pear Creek Land Trust Early Restoration Proposal

The East Helena NRD Settlement Fund Early Restoration Process, approved by the Governor, provides that applications be subject to a 30-day public comment period before a TRC recommendation goes to the Governor. The Prickly Pear Land Trust grant proposal has not yet been subject to public comment. This was consistent with the NRD Program (NRDP) past grant process in which applications were required to have TRC approval prior to going out for public comment. The NRDP had intended to revise this process by putting applications out for public comment before TRC consideration, but has yet to do so.

It is proposed that the TRC vote on a preliminary recommendation to the Governor with the understanding that that the recommendation and the grant proposal be made subject to 30 day public comment period. Once public comment is received and responded to by NRDP staff, the comments and the responses will be sent to the members of the TRC. If the TRC determines that the public comments raise issues that need further discussion among the TRC, another meeting will be scheduled before the TRC makes a final recommendation to the Governor. If the TRC determines that the public comments do not require additional discussion, the TRC's preliminary recommendation will be submitted to the Governor as its final recommendation.

Proposed motion: The TRC preliminary recommends approval of funding the Prickly Pear Creek Land Trust proposal in the amount of \$73,700 out of the East Helena NRD Settlement Fund. The TRC further approves submitting this preliminary recommendation and the grant proposal for a 30 day public comment period. The TRC will consider public comment before making its funding recommendation to the Governor. The TRC also preliminary recommends approval of the NRDP's recommended funding condition that if the grant is approved by the Governor, then subsequently the Scope of Work for the procurement of the contractor must be approved by the NRDP for consistency with the application and funding contract.